

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:  
2       providing a mold having a cavity, wherein a first portion of the cavity forms  
3       at least one finger tab, a second portion of the cavity forms a tube, and a third  
4       portion of the cavity forms a hinge between the first portion of the cavity and the  
5       second portion of the cavity;  
6       feeding a molten polymer into the cavity of the mold; and  
7       cooling the polymer.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2       providing a fourth portion of the cavity which forms a self-sealing valve.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein feeding a molten polymer occurs through  
20      one of injection molding, multi-injection molding, co-injection molding, and gas  
25      assist molding.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein at least two polymers are co-injected into the  
2      mold.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2       ejecting a one-piece introducer.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2       inserting a valve into the tube.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 forming a plurality of finger tabs.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer is selected from the group  
2 consisting of liquid crystal polymer, polyetheramide, polycarbonate, polyester with  
3 glass fiber, polyester with carbon filler, polyamide with glass fiber, thermoplastic  
4 elastomer, polyolefins and polyamide with carbon filler.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer is introduced into a mold at a  
2 temperature approximately in the range of 200°C to 340°C.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein the polymer is introduced at a pressure  
approximately in the range of 1,000 psi to 5,000 psi.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the cavity forms a second  
finger tab.
12. The method of claim 5, wherein one of a longitudinal scoreline and offline  
scoreline is formed in the tube of the introducer.
13. The method of claim 5, wherein a beveled tip is formed at a distal end of a  
tube of the introducer.
14. A method of making a one-piece introducer comprising:  
providing a mold having a cavity, wherein a proximal portion having a  
finger tab portion and a distal portion having a tube portion, wherein the finger tab  
portion is connected to the tube portion through a hinge portion;

5 introducing molten polymer into a cavity of a mold; and  
6 forming a scoreline along the tube portion.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the polymer is selected from the group  
2 consisting of liquid crystal polymer, polyetheramide, polycarbonate, polyester with  
3 glass fiber, polyester with carbon filler, polyamide with glass fiber, polyolefins,  
4 thermoplastic elastomers and polyamide with carbon filler.

1 16. A one-piece introducer for an intravascular device, comprising:  
2 ✓ at least one finger tab portion;  
3 ✓ a tube portion;  
4 ✓ a hinge portion between the finger tab portion and the tube portion, wherein  
5 the finger tab portion, the hinge portion, and the tube portion form a seamless  
6 introducer.

1 17. The one-piece introducer of claim 16, comprising a polymer selected from the  
2 group consisting of liquid crystal polymer, polyetheramide, polycarbonate, polyester  
3 with glass fiber, polyester with carbon filler, polyamide with glass fiber,  
4 thermoplastic elastomers, polyolefins and polyamide with carbon filler.

1 18. The one-piece introducer of claim 16, wherein the tube portion is  
2 ✓ substantially hollow.

1 19. The one-piece introducer of claim 16, wherein the finger tab portion has a  
2 ✓ shape which is one of substantially rectangular, cylindrical, spherical, and square.

1 ✓ 20. The one-piece introducer of claim 16, further comprising:

- 2 a scoreline formed on the tube portion.
21. A one-piece introducer comprising:  
at least one finger tab portion;  
3 ✓ a tube portion having a scoreline, wherein the at least one finger tab portion  
4 and the tube portion are seamless.
- 1 ✓ 22. The one-piece introducer of claim 1, wherein a hinge is located between the  
tube portion and the at least one finger tab portion.
- 1 ✓ 23. The one-piece introducer of claim 21, wherein the tube portion is  
substantially hollow.
- 2 ✓ 24. The one-piece introducer of claim 21, wherein the finger tab portion has a  
shape which is one of substantially rectangular, cylindrical, spherical, and square.
- 3 ✓ 25. A one-piece introducer comprising:  
a tube;  
the first finger tab and the second finger tab formed at a proximal end of the  
4 tube without seams; and  
5 a scoreline formed on the tube.
- 1 ✓ 26. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, further comprising:  
2 a safety valve is coupled at the proximal end of the tube.
- 1 ✓ 27. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, comprises a polymer, the polymer is  
2 selected from the group consisting of liquid crystal polymer, polyetheramide,

3 polycarbonate, polyester with glass fiber, polyester with carbon filler, polyamide with  
4 glass fiber, thermoplastic elastomers, polyolefins and polyamide with carbon filler.

1 28. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, wherein the scoreline extends to a  
2 ✓ beveled distal tip of the tube portion.

 29. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, wherein the tube is substantially  
hollow.

1 30. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, wherein the finger tab portion has a  
2 ✓ shape which is one of substantially rectangular, cylindrical, spherical, and square.

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